

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00970 220454Z

21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

AID-20 IGA-02 CU-04 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 120252

R 210830Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2021

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0970

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAU PFOR MARR ET SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI-THIOPIAN DISCUSSIONS AT OAU SUMMITT

1. SUMMARY: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOGADISCIO (AYALEW), WHO ATTENDED SUMMIT SIAD-HAILE SELASSIE MEETING WITH GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT BILATERAL DISCUSSION, SAID ATMOSPHERE BASICALLY GOOD, ZJQOUGH BOTH SIDES REITERATED KNOWN VIEWS. SOMALIA DECLINED ETHIOPIAN OFFER FOR NON-AGGRESSION PACT AND VARIOUS ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, AGREEMENT REACHED ON ETHIOPIAN RELEASE OF FOUR SOMALI STUDENTS IN RETURN FOR SOMALI RELEASE OF NUMBER OF ETHIOPIAN TRUCKS. COMMITTEE'S LIFE EXTENDED BUT IEG DOES NOT RPT NOT EXEPT MUCH FROM IT. AYALEW VIEWS SOMALI FONSEC'S OAU SEC GEN CANDIDACY AS UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT BY ARAB LEAGUE TO "TAKE OVER" OAU. END SUMMARY.

2. AYALEW SAID SUMMIT MEETING OF OGOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE BEGAN WITH STANDARD PRESENTATION OF THEIR CASE BY SIAD AND EMPEROR.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00970 220454Z

BOTH AGREED TO TENTATIVE SUGGESTIONS THAT COMMITTEE CONTINUE

ITS WORK WITH SAME MANDATE AND SAME MEMBERSHIP.

3. NYERERE THEN POINTED OUT THAT COMMITTEE HAD BEEN FORMED BECAUSE OF SOMALI FEAR OF ETHIOPIAN ATTACK WITH DUAL PURPOSE OF REDUCING TENSION AND WORKING TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE. WARFARE HAD NOT BROKEN OUT AND TENSION APPEARED TO BE REDUCED. ON OTHER HAND, PRESENTATIONS BY SIAD AND EMPEROR MADE IT CLEAR THAT BASIC DISPUTE WAS INTRACTABLE. WHY THEN SHOULD COMMITTEE BE CONTINUED? SIAD SAID SOMALI FEARS OF ETHIOPIAN AGGRESSION STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE. ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION THEN OFFERED TO CONCLUDE NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH SOMALIA BUT SIAD DECLINED, STATING THAT SUCH PACTS HAD MELANCHOLY HISTORY AND CITING PRE-WW II PRECEDENTS. IT WAS THEN AGREED TO CONTINUE COMMITTEE.

4. SUBSEQUENT BILATERAL DISCUSSION, ACCORDING TO AYALEW, WAS MORE CORDIAL, THOUGH NEITHER SIDE DEPARTED FROM ITS KNOWN POSITIONS. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON RELEASE BY ETHIOPIA OF FOUR SOMALI AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS PRESENTLY UNDER DETENTION AND SOMALIS AGREED TO RETURN NUMBER OF TRUCKS TO ETHIOPIA. ETHIOPIANS REITERATED THEIR LONG-STANDING PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN VARIETY OF FIELDS BUT SOMALIS SAID TIME WAS NOT RIGHT FOR THIS.

5. AYALEW THEN SAID IEG ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO FACT SIAD HAD SOUGHT TO AVOID OAU CHAIRMANSHIP. IEG FELT THIS WAS BECAUSE SIAD WANTED "KEEP HIS HANDS FREE" TO MOVE AGAINST ETHIOPIA. (AYALEW NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT OAU CHAIRMANSHIP, WHILE IT MIGHT DETER MINOR SOMALI PROVOCATIONS, WOULD NOT PREVENT GSDR FROM MAKING MAJOR MOVE IF THEY FELT IT IN THEIR INTERESTS.) ETHIOPIANS LEARNED OF SIAD'S RELUCTANCE SHORTLY BEFORE SUMMIT AND WORKED HARD TO HAVE HIM ELECTED CHAIRMAN. ELECTION WAS PROLONGED AND BITTER AFFAIR, WITH SIAD BEING "ALMOST RUDE" IN SEEKING TO HAVE MOBUTU ELECTED DESPITE LATTER'S RELUCTANCE. ELECTION WENT TO SIAD BECAUSE OF GENERAL FEELING CYJZ PRECEDENT OF HOST COUNTRY BEING CHAIRMAN SHOULD NOT BE BROKEN.

6. COMMENT: THERE WERE MANY RUMORS IN MOGADISCIO THAT SIAD DID NOT WANT CHAIRMANSHIP. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN DID TAKE UNUSUALLY LONG TIME, RESULTING IN THREE-HOUR DELAY IN COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC OPENING SESSION. WE AGREE WITH AYALEW THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOGADI 00970 220454Z

CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD NOT DETER SOMALIS FROM MAKING MAJOR MOVE AGAINST ETHIOPIA. SOME CLAIM THAT SIAD WISHED WITHDRAW TO FACILITATE ELECTION SOMALI FONSEC OMAR ARTEH AS SEC GEN. WE ARE NOT SURE ABOUT SOMALI MOTIVATIONS AND, INDEED, ARE NOT CERTAIN AS TO DEGREE AND GENUINENESS OF SIAD'S ALLEGED "RELUCTANCE". END COMMENT.

7. AYALEW CHARACTERIZED OMAR ARTEH'S VIGOROUS PURSUIT OF SEC-

GEN POSITION AS ATTEMPTED ARAB LEAGUE "TAKEOVER" OF OAU. HE CLAIMED ARABS MADE MAJOR EFFORT, INCLUDING ATTEMPTS TO BUY VOTES OF SAHEL COUNTRIES. HE STATED PRINCIPAL RESISTANCE TO ARTEH CAME FROM ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND ETHIOPIA. PRINCIPAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST ARTEH WERE: HIS AND SOMALIA'S TIES WITH ARBAS; FACT SOMALIA IS MOSLEM COUNTRY; SOMALI DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA; AND SOMALIA'S PROGRESSIVE POLICIES. IT WAS DEPTH OF ANTI-ARAB FEELING IN PARTICULAR WHICH ENABLED ARTEH'S OPPONENTS TO PREVENT HIS ELECTION EVEN THOUGH HE HAD MAJORITY OF VOTES. AYALEW ALSO NOTED THAT SOMALIS HAD MADE TACTICAL ERRORS. OMAR ARTEH'S PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING HIS CANDIDACY AND ERONEOUSLY CLAIMING ETHIOPIA'S SUPPORT FOR IT (MOGADISCIO 0930) WAS ONE. DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-ETHIOPIAN BOOK BY ITALIAN WRITER (MOGADISCIO 0876) WAS ANOTHER. LATTER ERROR WAS COMPOUNDED BY FACT SOMALIS, WHEN CHALLENGED ON BOOK, NOT ONLY WITHDREW IT FROM BOOKSTALLS BUT BROKE INTO DELEGATES' ROOMS AND TOOK THE BOOK IN QUESTION OUT OF THEIR BAGGAGE.

8. COMMENT: AYALEW'S COMMENTS AS TO IDENTITY OF PRINCIPAL OPPONENTS TO ARTEH'S ELECTION AND MAIN ARGUMENTS THEY USED AGAINST HIM IS CONSISTENT WITH REPORTS BY NUMBER OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE CLOSE TO CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES. HIS DESCRIPTION OF ALLEGED ARAB LEAGUE EFFORT TO "TAKE OVER" OAU IS CAST IN CONSIDERABLY MORE CONSPIRATORIAL TERMS BY HIM THAN BY OUR OTHER SOURCES, HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT HOWEVER THAT ARAB LEAGUE - PARTICULARLY ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIYADH AND MOHAMED SAHOUM - WAS MUCH MORE ACTIVE AT MOGADISCIO THAN IN PREVIOUS OAU GATHERINGS. WHAT ITS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE WAS IS STILL FOR US A MOOT QUESTION. KIRK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOGADI00970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740164-0361
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740625/aaaaautp.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALI-THIOPIAN DISCUSSIONS AT OAU SUMMITT
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ET, SO, OAU, (AYALEW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005